

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0567
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV EG PINT
SUBJ: SADAT ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SADAT'S TWO HOUR SPEECH TO ASU
CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON JUNE 20 WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY DEVOTED
TO RECENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS (PEACE PROCESS ASPECTS
SEPTTEL). SADAT STRONGLY ATTACKED LEFT AND RIGHT, CONCEN-
TRATING HIS GREATEST IRE ON WAFD. PRESIDENT DENIED
RECENT ACTIONS ARE ATTACK ON DEMOCRACY AND STRESSED
OPPOSITION PARTIES TOOK OWN DECISIONS TO DISSOLVE OR
FREEZE ACTIVITIES. THEY WERE NOT FORCED DO SO BY GOVERN-
MENT. PRESIDENT EVOKED COLLEGIAL NATURE EGYPTIAN DECISION
MAKING; IN REFERENDUM PEOPLE SPOKE. SADAT SUGGESTED
SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR'S PRIMARY FUNCTION DEFINED BY
CONSTITUTION AND WILL BE TO LAY OUT IN PUBLIC THE
"POLITICAL CHARACTERS" OF THOSE UNDER INVESTIGATION.
PRESIDENT SPOKE OF NO PENALTIES. SADAT EXPRESSED DETER-
MINATION CONTINUE COURSE DESPITE WESTERN CRITICISM.
ONLY ACTION REQUESTED IS FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO DRAFT
"CODE OF ETHICS" PRIOR TO JULY 23. NO INDICATION HOW
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CODE WILL BE ENFORCED. SADAT BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND,
AND WAS OBVIOUSLY DEFENSIVE OVER CHARGES HE LIMITING
DEMOCRACY. HE FAILED GIVE PERSUASIVE EXPLANATION FOR
CRACKDOWN, NOR DID HE PROVIDE CLEAR INDICATION
OF HOW FAR HE INTENDS TO GO. THOSE LOOKING TO SPEECH
FOR GUIDANCE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. END SUMMARY.

1. LIBERALIZATION. AT OUTSET TWO HOUR ADDRESS, SADAT TOOK PAINS TO STRESS HIS PERSONAL ROLE IN LAUNCHING LIBERALIZATION PROCESS. PRESIDENT NOTED HIS CLOSURE OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS, ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT CONSTITUTION, AND GRANTING OF POLITICAL FREEDOMS. HE RECITED FAMILIAR CHRONOLOGY INVOLVED IN CREATION POLITICAL PLATFORMS AND THEIR CONVERSION TO FULL POLITICAL PARTIES. NOTED THIS DONE DESPITE OPPOSITION PROTESTS THAT PARTIES LAW WOULD RESTRICT POLITICAL FREEDOM. SENSITIVITY TO THIS COMPLAINT, SADAT EXPLAINED, IS WHY RETURN TO POLITICAL LIFE OF INDIVIDUALS WAS NOT FORBIDDEN BY PARTIES LAW. OLD PARTIES WERE BANNED; OLD POLITICIANS WERE NOT.

2. SARAGEDDIN. SADAT NOTED HE SIGNED ORDER APPOINTING WAFD LEADER SARAGEDDIN TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE DESPITE HIS LONG STANDING OBJECTIONS TO HIS "PERSONALITY." DESPITE PERSONAL MISGIVINGS, SADAT DID NOT WANT TO GIVE IMPRESSION HE OPPOSED FORMATION OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY. NEVERTHELESS, SADAT NOTED THAT HE AND HIS ARMY COLLEAGUES CONSIDERED SARAGEDDIN FIRST PERSON WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN PURGED FROM POLITICAL LIFE FOR CORRUPTION FOLLOWING REVOLUTION.

3. NEW WAFD. REEMERGED WAFD, PRESIDENT ALLEGED, WAS WORSE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR. PARTY IMMEDIATELY PUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET UNDER FIRE, LAUNCHING CAMPAIGN OF GRUDGE AND SPITE IN EFFORT FOMENT CLASS STRUGGLE. TARGET WAS NOT PRIME MINISTER OR CABINET BUT "REGIME ITSELF." PRESIDENT SAID HE CONSIDERED SITUATION EXTREMELY DANGEROUS; WAFD WAS TRYING DESTROY EVERYTHING. SADAT TOOK PARTICULAR UMBRAGE AT WAFD'S ROSY DESCRIPTION OF PRE-REVOLUTIONARY EGYPT AND PARTY'S DENIAL THAT 1952 REPRESENTED TRUE REVOLUTION.

4. LEFT. BOTH WAFD AND LEFT, PRESIDENT CLAIMED, FORGOT THAT PARTY ADVANCEMENT NOT AN OBJECTIVE IN ITSELF. OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE ACHIEVEMENT EGYPTIAN NATIONAL INTERESTS. EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT, HE SAID, UNITED IN ATTEMPT TO SEIZE POWER. LEFT, DESPITE FACT THIS FIRST TIME IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY IT GRANTED FREEDOM, STILL ACTED AS IF IT WERE UNDERGROUND. SADAT REPEATED CHARGE THAT LEFT PARTY IS MOSCOW CREATURE, FOLLOWING USSR'S LEAD ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES. (INTER ALIA, PRESIDENT REPEATED SOVIETS ONLY OPPOSE INITIATIVE BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT INVOLVED.)

5. JOURNALISTS. SADAT REPEATED ALLEGATION THAT DOMESTIC CRITICS HAVE BEEN FEEDING FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS INACCURATE DESCRIPTIONS OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, PICTURING COUNTRY AS BEING ON POINT OF ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL COLLAPSE. CRITICS, WANTING GIVE DISTORTED IMAGE, HAVE ALLEGED GOE ABSOLUTELY CORRUPT. PRESIDENT DENIED THIS, ADMITTING MISTAKES MADE, BUT SAID OTHER COUNTRIES FACE CORRUPTION FAR WORSE THAN EGYPTIAN. SADAT DID NOT RPT NOT REPEAT THREAT EXPELL FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

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6. REFERENDUM. PRESIDENT CLAIMED IT WAS AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT HE HAD GONE TO PEOPLE IN REFERENDUM. PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN; SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR WILL MAKE PUBLIC POLITICAL CHARACTERS OF THOSE UNDER INVESTIGATION. (PRESIDENT AGAIN ADMITTED CRITICS HAVE COMMITTED NO VIOLATION WHICH WOULD STAND UP BEFORE COURT OF LAW. HENCE, THIS "POLITICAL" NOT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.) SADAT DESCRIBED CURRENT SITUATION AS "CRISIS OF CHARACTER." EXPRESSED DETERMINATION CONTINUE RECTIFICATION DESPITE WESTERN CRITICISM, WHICH, HE IMPLIED, IS INSPIRED BY OPPONENTS IN EFFORT TO SCARE HIM.

7. CODE OF ETHICS. PRESIDENT CALLED UPON CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO DRAFT CODE OF HONOR, OR CODE OF ETHICS, . WHICH WILL IMPOSE "RULES OF CHARACTER" ON POLITICAL LIFE. SADAT DENIED THIS REPRESENTS COLLAPSE OF

DEMOCRACY: PARTY LAW REMAINS AND FREE ELECTIONS WILL
BE HELD ON SCHEDULE. PRESIDENT REPEATED THAT WAFD
LIQUIDATED ITSELF AND LEFT FROZE ITS OWN ACTIVITIES.
PRESIDENT WAS NOT UNHAPPY THEY CHOSE PURSUE THIS
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COURSE BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THESE WERE THEIR DECISIONS.
NEW "CODE" WILL BE EXTENSIVELY DEBATED IN MONTH AHEAD,
AND ADOPTED AT ANNUAL JULY 23 MEETING OF ASU CENTRAL
COMMITTEE. EILTS

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